31st January 1929]

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"May I know if the Government think that she would commit the same forcible conversions now ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"More or less."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"May I know whether there were any instances of forcible conversions after the rebellion ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Because no persons were given opportunities of doing so."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"Do the Government think there are opportunities for any person to commit forcible conversions now ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I think so."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know what abominable acts she is likely to commit ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I cannot give information as to the acts which she is likely to commit."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB :—"May I ask if the Government will be pleased to increase her allowance in consideration of her old age and weakness ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The District Magistrate thinks that the allowance, viz., Rs. 12 per mensem and the extra allowance for clothing, is ample and with that allowance she is able to live more comfortably in South Kanara than in Malabar."

Finance

Subjects discussed at the Finance Members' Conference at Delhi.

* 1237 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the subjects which were discussed at the recent Finance Members' Conference at Delhi ;

(b) whether that Conference discussed any matter to be placed before the Simon Commission ; and

(c) whether as a result of the deliberations or decisions of that Conference, the Government propose to make any change in the financial relations between the Madras Government and the Government of India, and if so, of what nature and when ?

A.—The Local Government are not authorized to state what subjects were discussed at Conferences convened by the Government of India. The agenda of the Conference was not concerned with any political or financial issues arising out of the enquiries of the Simon Commission.

Madras Record office

Pay and powers of the Curator, Madras Record office.

* 1238 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what is the present pay of the Officiating Curator, Madras Central Record office, and what is his pay in his permanent appointment in the Educational Department ;

[31st January 1929

(*b*) what powers of appointment, etc. (inclusive of the grant of pension), has the present Curator in regard to the staff of the Madras Record office; when they were vested in him and under what order of the Government;

(*c*) whether Mr. Dodwell and the officers who were in charge of the Record office after his departure to England exercised these powers;

(*d*) when the powers of appointment, grant of pension, etc., were delegated to the Curator, Mr. Dodwell, and how many years after his appointment as Curator such delegation was made;

(*e*) whether these powers were vested at any time in the Finance Department, if so, during what period; and

(*f*) when and why these powers were revested in the Curator?

A.—(*a*) Rs. 375 in the scale of Rs. 350—25—500—50—800; Rs. 190.

(*b*) Full powers except in respect of the Senior Assistant. In virtue of his appointment as Curator of the Madras Record office from 17th December 1927.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Mr. Dodwell was appointed Curator in 1911 and these delegations were sanctioned in 1914 and 1916.

(*e*) & (*f*) When the Collector of Madras was first placed in charge of the Madras Record office on 2nd August 1923, the Deputy Secretary, Finance, attended to office matters of the Madras Record office. On 26th September 1924 these functions were assigned to the Collector of Madras as a matter of convenience pending the appointment of a new Curator. When a Curator was appointed these powers reverted to him.

Railways

Strengthening of bridges on the railway line from Waltair to Rajahmundry.

*1239 *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the railway line from Waltair to Rajahmundry was constructed nearly forty years ago;

(*b*) whether at that time there were large tracts of land covered with forest to the north of the railway line which held up rain water to some extent;

(*c*) whether subsequently the forests have been cleared and whether a large volume of water flows from the north;

(*d*) whether the capacity of the existing culverts and bridges on the said line has been investigated at any time subsequently and found sufficient for discharging water;

(*e*) the number of occasions on which portions of the line and bridges were either washed away or breached between Vizagapatam and Rajahmundry during the last ten years;

(*f*) whether the Government instituted enquiries into the reasons for the same; and

(*g*) whether the Government intend to make any investigation into the sufficiency or otherwise of the capacity of the existing bridges and culverts to discharge all the water from the north?

A.—(*a*) The railway line from Rajahmundry to Waltair was opened for traffic on 15th July 1893.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The Government have no information.